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REMARKS

The Office Action of 11/30/2006 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 were rejected as being directed to unpatentable subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed toward "signal conditioning," in particular subtracting quantization noise from a PCM (Pulse Code Modulation) signal. Such signal conditioning inventions were recognized as presenting patentable subject matter in, for example, Arrythmia Research Technology Inc. v. Carazonix, 22 U.S.P.Q.2d 1033 (CAFC 1992). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9 were rejected as being unpatentable over Nishio in view of Kim. The rejection states in part:

> [N]ishio et al. and the Official Notice do not specifically disclose the windowing function. However Kim does.... [I]t would have been obvious to incorporate the windowing function as taught in Kim for the benefit of dividing the image signals into sub-images.

This rejection is respectfully traversed, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Firstly, Applicant takes issue with the statement that the equation recited in the claims "performs the same functionality as this equation $e = (S^2/12)^{1/4}$, where e represents the qutization error and S represents the step size."

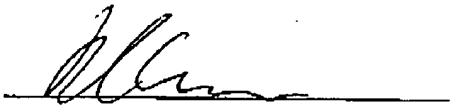
Setting aside this difference, however, the proposed combination of Nishio and Kim is unfounded and does not teach or suggest the present invention as claimed. Whereas both Nishio and the present invention relate to reducing quantization noise in PCM signals, Kim relates to reducing quantization noise in images signals (i.e., DCT-

quantized signals). Kim's method is inapplicable to Nishio and to the present invention. Moreover, "windowing" in Kim is used to mean dividing an image into frequency-domain sub-images. In Nishio and in the present invention, there are no images to be so sub-divided.

In the present specification, "windowing" is used in a quite different sense, to mean the element-by-element multiplication of data elements within a limited "window" of a stream of data elements with corresponding data elements of a "window function." The window function might have the shape of a triangle, for example.

Withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Ure, Reg. 33,089

Dated: 02/28/2007